



September, 2003

## **Supplemental Environmental Projects**

The mission of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District) is to achieve clean air and to protect the public's health by controlling industrial air pollution. One of the tools to achieve compliance with Air District rules and regulations is a vigilant inspection and enforcement program. Violation Notices and subsequent fines and penalties are aimed at bringing facilities into compliance, deterring future violations and ultimately improving air quality.

A Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) is a project that improves air quality in an area near a facility that has received violation notices from the Air District. SEP funding is collected from the violating facility as part of a negotiated settlement.

In broad terms, an agreement to commit to a SEP means that some portion of the penalties paid by the violator are not retained by the Air District but are instead directed towards a project that reduces air pollution and benefits the community. **The project must be "supplemental" in that it goes beyond what the company is legally required to do.**

The specifics of a SEP may be defined at the time that violations are settled, or determined later following an agreement to set aside a certain penalty amount for that purpose. In evaluating a proposed SEP, the Air District must assure that the following conditions are met:

- The project must be related to the violation by addressing the harm caused by the violation, or
- Must reduce the air pollution related environmental or public health impacts and risks caused by the violation, or
- Reduce the likelihood that similar violations will occur in the future.

To qualify as a SEP, a project must also fall into at least one of seven categories:

- Public Health
- Pollution Prevention
- Pollution Reduction
- Environmental Restoration and Protection
- Environmental Compliance Audits
- Comprehensive Environmental Training and/or
- Emergency Planning and Preparedness

For a full copy of the Air District's Supplemental Environmental Policy (SEP), visit the Air District's website at [www.baaqmd.gov](http://www.baaqmd.gov) or call the Public Information Office at (415) 749-4900.

